

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03363 081724Z

44
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 EUR-25 /166 W
----- 069136

R 081515Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6668

CONFIDENTIAL NIAMEY 3363

E.O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR NG XF
SUBJECT: NIGER AND MIDDLE EAST

REF: A. STATE 209574; B. NIAMEY 3330, C. NIAMEY 3116

1. I SPOKE WITH DIRECTOR OF CABINET, MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SALIFOU, ON GENERAL SUBJECT MIDDLE EAST NOV 5 AND BRIEFLY ON NOV 7. AFTER REVIEW USG ACTIONS PER REF A AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS AT UN, I ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS. HE SAID GON APPRECIATED USG'S EFFORTS OVTAIN CEASE-FIRE AND WAS FOLLOWING CURRENT ROUND OF TALKS IN TRYING WORK OUT SETTLEMENT. HE MENTIONED PRESIDENT DIORI'S TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA AND SAID GON WOULD HAVE CLEARER PICTURE OF SITATUION UPON HIS RETURN (REF B).

2. IN EFFORT TO ELICIT MORE ABOUT GON ATTITUDES I ASKED WHY THERE WERE NO LOCAL EDITORIALS OR RADIO COMMENTARY ON WAR(REF C). HE REPLIED PRESIDENT DIORI HAD ORDERED BAN STATING THAT POSITION OF GON IN SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSE WAS ALREADY WELL KNOWN AND NEEDED NO AMPLIFICATION. SALIFOU GAVE OPINION THAT PRESIDENT PROBABLY CONCLUDED THAT NOTHING COULD BE GAINED BY EDITORIALIZING FURTHER ON SUBJECT THAT WAS ALREADY EVOKEK STRONG FEELINGS AMONG NIGERIENS. HE ALSO HEMINED ME THAT EDITORIALS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE RARE UNLESS NIGER IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

3. I TOLD HIM I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A DELICATE QUESTION, NAMELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03363 081724Z

WHETHER HE COULD SPEAK WITHOUT SPECIFICS OF ANY ARAB DEMARCHE

TO THE GON ABOUT US ROLE DURING FIGHTING. HE SAID HE WOULD ANSWER MY QUESTION INDIRECTLY BY STATING THAT IT WAS TON'S POLICY OF LONG-STANDING NOT TO TOLERATE ATTACKS OR CRITICISM BY ONE COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER IN NIGER AS LONG AS GON MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH. HE THEN SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY OFFICIAL DEMARCHEES CRITICIZING THE US, BUT THAT THERE WERE CRITICAL REMARKS MADE PRIVATELY ABOUT THE US RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. HE CONTINUED HOWEVER BY SAYING HE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT SOME LOCAL ARAB

DIPLOMATS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION TO HIM THAT AMERICA WAS ONLY HOPE FOR ACHIEVING PEACE IN AREA AND HE PERSONALLY AGREED. I REPLIED I HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD THE SAME BY SEVERAL ARAB AMBASSADORS/CHARGES (SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND LIBYA) AND I WOULD REPEAT TO HIM WHAT I HAD SAID TO THEM, NAMELY, WE ARE DOING ALL IN OUR POWER TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT, BUT ULTIMATE DECISIONS REST WITH THE CAMBATANTS. WE CANNOT IMPOSE PEACE. SALIFOU (AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADORS) REMAINED SKEPTICAL REGARDING MY CLAIMS THAT USG NOT OMNIPOTENT IN THIS REGARD.

BUCHE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY
POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NIAMEY03363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731147/aaaabidx.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 209574; B. NIAMEY 3330, C., NIAMEY 3116
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGER AND MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, NG, XF, US, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005